

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

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SKETCHES

OF

LEGISLATORS

AND

STATE OFFICERS

1876-1878.

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BY JOHN CARDWELL.

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AUSTIN, TEXAS:  
DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN STEAM PRINT.  
1876.

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TWELFTH DISTRICT.

*Counties.*—Collin and Denton.

SENATOR F. E. PINER was born in the State of Tennessee, December 4, 1838. He completed his academical education at the University of Oxford, in Mississippi, and graduated in the law school of that institution in 1860. He came to Texas first in 1856 and returned to Mississippi, completing, as stated, his education between that time and the commencement of the war. In 1861 he joined the Fifteenth Mississippi regiment, Confederate States Army, and served gallantly until discharged in consequence of severe wounds and consequent inability to perform the duties of a soldier. For a long time he was color bearer for his regiment. Leaving the army he

came to Texas in the latter part of 1864, settled at once in Denton county, and commenced the practice of law. In 1873 he was elected District Attorney, in and for the Twelfth Judicial District, which office was held by him until he came to Austin to qualify as State Senator, to which position he was elected by a Democratic majority of 615 votes. His opponent was Johnson, of Collin, made notorious by the Holy Alliance, which he headed in the Constitutional Convention of 1875.

Mr. Piner is an able lawyer, and a forcible debater, and has at once reached a leading position in the Senate. He is chairman of Judiciary Committee No. 2, and is an active member of several other of the more important committees. He is a gentleman of ordinary size, fair complexion and delicate frame; is quick but methodical in his movements, and is remarkably pleasant as an associate. He resides with his family at Denton, in Denton county.